



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEATON CREATES NEW WILDLIFE REFUGE OFF MISSISSIPPI COAST

Horn Island National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi has just been created by the withdrawal of 2,431 acres of public land, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today. The withdrawal was at the request of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Horn Island, in the Gulf of Mexico, about eight miles off the Mississippi shore, is a valuable feeding and resting area for migratory waterfowl, water birds and shore birds. It is a few miles east of Petit Bois National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi which lies close to the Alabama boundary.

The island is approximately 13 miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide at its widest place. It is chiefly of sand composition and is undergoing a gradual shift from east to west. It was surveyed in 1846 and again in 1939. In the interim it had lost 170 acres on the east end and had picked up 550 acres on the west end.

It is 10 to 20 feet above sea level. Nearly two-thirds of the island is sand. There are about 500 acres of timberland and nearly 700 acres of marsh. There are several ponds on the island, some of which are fresh except for brief periods of time following hurricanes.

In area Horn Island is 3,700 acres, of which 1,269 are privately owned. There are no structures there but a barracks-like building, a hurricane-battered relic of World War II.

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